

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 31, lines 17-24 and replace it with the following paragraph:

By using overlapping octapeptides, the ²⁹⁷RHWTQTQGCNC³⁰⁶ (SEQ ID NO: 1) region of the HCV E1 protein and both ⁶¹³YRLWHYPCT⁶²¹ (SEQ ID NO: 3) and ⁴⁸⁰PDQRPYCWHYPPKPC⁴⁹⁴ (SEQ ID NO: 2) regions of the HCV E2 protein were reactive with D32.10. The two regions identified in E2 contain the same motif WHYP (SEQ ID NO: 28) suggested by Yagnik et al. (2000) to be involved in the heterodimerization of E1E2. Indeed it is difficult to discriminate these regions, but as two non overlapping zones: ⁴⁷⁹GPDQRPYC⁴⁸⁶ (SEQ ID NO: 26) and ⁴⁸⁷WHYPPKPC⁴⁹⁴ (SEQ ID NO: 27) separately bound to D32.10, this suggests that D32.10 specifically recognizes each octapeptide, and so the complete sequence (480-494).